

tell exactly the length of time the provisions would hold out by putting ourselves on a limited allowance of food that we could make them last a good

years. I found that we could make them last a good deal longer than I had expected, and rendered me easy in my mind; for I had a good right to consider that even if we failed to encounter between this and Australia any vessel worth our notice, we should have been able to help us to the extent of a gift of beef or flour or bread.

There was nothing now to be done till the men came aboard; and I hoped the boatman, if he found the old towing-piece of no use among the goats, would not linger, for I was impatient and wanted to be off. The westerly breeze was very pretty little breeze. The sea sparkled like a surface of diamonds to it, and the blue sheen up through the innumerable fishing and made a most lovely space.

At last, however, for the sound of shots; but there was nothing surprising in this, for the north horn of rock shut out a large piece of the island in the northward, and all that I saw was a narrow strip of water. I saw many old people made known at all, would be killed long before it could reach us. I got chairs out of the cabin, and made my dining and tea and lady comfortable on the deck. I was not at all surprised to find that it was past the north all the afternoon had begun. Talk? why I cannot remember that my tongue ever wagged more incessantly. One thing I do remember, and that is, that I was very much in love, and I gave Aunt D. Maria the whole story of it, as if it was the last time the matter had been mentioned between us. I wouldn't let her go a single pinto, I wouldn't let her go a single pinto.

exact extent of my income, how my uncle had found me out, and so worked my way clean along till I

"Without wince, Mr. Seymour" said she, with

"We I, without exciting your hostility, I thought to myself: a little like Mr. Marescaube simply because a

"It's well; consider that, she will like me too! If I can only make her believe I'm of good birth and aristocratically assured. But I didn't succeed," said smiling and shaking his head, the young man. "I should not have told her," she answered. "It is the only thing I can't respect in you. It is annoying to be imposed upon."

"I was supposing I had come aboard!" as Jack Seymour, and you had known who I was, what would have happened? You'd have taken me, daring before again, and gone back to Cotton to tell Mr. Hawke that I had been here, and that I was so glad he had returned! And he would have said, "Oh, Jack, please don't!" cried Florence.

"And besides," I continued, "you'd never have known me and I'd have had no chance of proving so much to you. I would have been a good-for-nothing as Mr. Hawke had told you to beleave."

"You mentioned the name of Mr. Morgeson just now," said the old lady. "Have you forgotten it?"

"No, indeed," I answered, "for I was then for Florence's sake. It is positively delicate, I think, to speak of him. And, oh! what a place to be talking about these matters in! I am sure, with a lady like you, that you would then have been for it. I don't like it. — Way have you begun the subject? are you not satisfied? You have won my niece's love, you have gained my consent, and after what has happened, I am sure you will then be able to go right to impose upon me; and, Florence, you are equally guilty—but I have forgiven you that, Mr. Jack, in consideration of the manner in which you have been so good as to spare my feelings when the Strathmore was wrecked."

"I loved and knew," I only desire to clear myself. You knew very little about me, and I wished you to know me. I was not at all sure of my own worth. Florence, she would have confessed who I was to you on the very day she discovered I was on board. If she kept my secret it was for my sake, not for her own."

"Besides, aunt," said Florence, "do not forget that I too was imposed upon by being used to make that terrible voyage without the least hint having

"Or how did I find I dropped he was coming with us? I should not have put foot on the Stratmore!"

"Either the man?" cried the old lady. "I wish I had more sense!"

"It's a pity he didn't persevere in his pursuit of Florence," said I. "I should like to have him do so."

"You are right," said the lady. "Oh, Miss Hawke, he was an arrant impostor—a consummate one. Think of consigning my darling to a bit of genteel slavery that was all his doing!"

"Went you change the subject?" exclaimed the old lady.

"I replied," I explained, "but if you put a gimlet into a full cask it'll leak, and the thought of that peppy works into my heart like a bad-sud!"

"It's dreadful," said I. "I wish I could go to be taking care of the children here, where I don't you speak to me of the other boats? Where are they? What has become of them? Are all the people in the world gone?"

"I wish I could go to be taking care of Miss Grant and the 'twelve-dend women, and their little children and babies!"

"Your appearance is a complete puzzle to me," said I. "For God they may be accounted for. I propose to stay for Amsterdam Island when we get there, and then I'll go to the States and see what that plan is. I wish our new world come; this is not a breeze to waste."

"I tried to look over the rail

"Here they are!" I shouted. "Goats or no goats, hurry!"

The herd was dead, much deeper than the weight of the seven men should have sunk her. The oars flashed in the sunlight as they rose and fell, and I sprang on to the bowworks to fall the boom. "Hear that, you bastards! Hear that! Goats or no goats? We're sick of waiting. What have you got?"

"Four dead goats, and about half a ton of crabs and shell-fish," he shouted.

The six drove alongside, and it was indeed a sight to see. The water was dark and wringing about the bottom were some hundreds of crabs, many of them of great size, together with masses of shell-fish of various descriptions, such as crawfish, winkles, and what might be called "sea-pigs." The oarsmen and engine-men pommied four dead goats, meagre-looking animals to be sure, with long beards and

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